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# MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of  
EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

## MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

### Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

Albert F. Root, Commissioner

Chadwick H. Smith, Chairman

Paul R. McClure, Commissioner

Mitchell Building — P. O. Box 1728 — Helena, Montana

FL-147/50



AUGUST 15, 1955

## July Employment Level Sets Record at 161,600

Wage earners on Montana industrial payrolls during July outnumbered those of the same month a year ago after having trailed consistently each month from last September until June. Estimates by the commission in collaboration with the federal bureau of labor statistics give 161,600 in non-farm employment during July, 300 above July of last year and 200 above the all-time high set in August last.

### Lingering Deficit is Erased

A wage dispute in the metal mining and smelting industry last August disrupted what had been a slow but steady growth of the working force in the state. Even after settlement of the issue last October the deficit continued, as other industries felt the lingering effect of idleness of about 8,000 high paid workers. By May of this year the deficit had been reduced to 1,000, was wiped out completely in June, and now July shows another favorable balance.

### Trade and Manufacturing Gain

Industries having employment gains over a year ago include: Wholesale and retail trade by 700; durable goods manufacturing by 500; finance, insurance and real estate by 400; and industrial service establishments by 100. Losses partially offsetting those figures were sustained in: contract construction, 800; metal mining, 500; transportation and communications, 100; and all branches of government, 100.

### Construction Decline Not Unexpected

The decline in construction and in mining is not unexpected. Much of the heavy construction program which began in 1946 and 1947 reached completion in the intervening years and a lull in new contracts naturally depleted the job supply. The metal mines in July were in the throes of new wage contract negotiations and hiring even of replacements was at a minimum. With an upturn in construction contracts apparent, and with miner wages now stable and full time work in prospect, the expectation is that both will trend upward.

### Seasonal Upturn Measures 1,000

Changes in employment from June to July show a net and mostly seasonal upturn of 1,000. Manufacturing had 600 more, divided between durable and non-durable production. Construction employed 1,000 more than in June, though still 800 below last July. Transportation had a favorable balance of 100, probably indicating that its employment is now levelling off after adjusting to technological changes. Retail trade added 400 to its June figures, and state and local government shows a reduction of 900 in employment. Finance and the service groups were unchanged.

## HEAVY JULY HIRING LEAVES LABOR SUPPLY THIRTY PERCENT ABOVE SIX-YEAR AVERAGE

Reserve labor supply in Montana at the end of July was nearly ten percent greater than a year ago and was thirty percent above the average for that period in the six preceding years, according to the work-applicant count reported by local offices of the employment service. Count of jobseekers this July was 4,628, a year ago the number was 4,283, and the six-year average was 3,461. Shrinkage of this supply from the preceding month was 600 this year, compared with a drop of 1,100 a year ago and an average decline of 1,000 for the six years. This is a seasonal movement.

### 1,000 Temporary Workers Included

The labor supply this July includes from 800 to 1,000 workers specially recruited from among housewives and youths not ordinarily in the labor market, for possible employment in the cherry industry in the northwestern area of the state. Nearly the same recruitment occurred in the summer of 1954, but in years prior to that the cherry applicants were not a part of the figures on general labor supply. Most of these jobseekers withdraw from the labor market after the cherry season concludes.

### Work-Applicant Count in Review

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
February .....	12,304	12,455	10,995	10,136	12,336	18,556
April .....	9,227	8,945	6,043	5,705	7,048	11,435
June .....	5,274	5,403	3,910	2,957	4,240	5,809
July .....	4,628	4,283	3,249	2,191	3,260	3,920
August .....	*3,600	3,519	2,069	1,619	2,370	2,898
October .....		4,038	2,699	1,955	2,572	3,179
December .....		8,613	7,932	7,517	6,694	8,329

\* Estimate.

### Active Demand in July

A vigorous demand for workers prevailed in July, evidenced by the job placement records reported. Industry and commerce accounted for 2,900 placements this July, against 2,800 in July, 1954. Agricultural hires at offices of the employment service fell off substantially from a year ago, largely due to less use of hand labor in the beet fields because of more complete mechanization.

### Wage Differences Subside

Adjustment of wage differences in the metal mining and smelting industry during July averted a tie-up in those fields and clears the way for an uninterrupted fall and winter season. Only one segment of the metal industry is in strike status, involving about 235 workers at East Helena. Other smelter crews, and the metal miners, continued at work and affirmed a settlement of their wage demands. The depressing effect of a general work stoppage, such as occurred a year ago, is thus averted. Other wage disputes, involving relatively small numbers of mechanics, truck operators and sales forces, in several of the state's larger cities, have also been settled and work resumed.

### Construction About at Peak

Construction contractors were actively hiring craftsmen and construction labor during July, probably reaching peak numbers on payrolls for the season. Some further increases are foreseen for August, but the largest current construction project, the aluminum plant at Columbia Falls, is reaching completion and is already in operation. While that project recently employed about 900 workers, the number is rapidly declin-

ing as contracts are finished. Tiber Dam near Chester is very near or at its seasonal peak of employment. Unfavorable weather, then floods, have delayed the hiring of maximum crews there.

### Airbase Employment Deferred

Employment on construction of a new air base near Glasgow began in July but is not expected to reach full volume until next spring, with a probable winter layoff period. About 200 are on those payrolls now, the number may reach 300 this fall, and should mount in 1956 to around 500.

### Power Dam to Start Soon

Building of a new dam in the Clark Fork near Noxon is expected to begin this fall and will be an employment factor in that area through the winter and next summer.

### Highway Employment Levels Off

Highway building and maintenance on the state system maintained about the same July level of employment as in June but is more than 200 below the crew totals of a year ago. Contractors had 1,217 men on highway payrolls, the maintenance crews occupied 733, for a total of 1,950. In June the total was 1,959 and in July of 1954 it was 2,185. Road jobs covering 455 miles of improvement were under way, and bridges contracted at \$1,295,600.

### Many Projects Await Start

A backlog of contracts awarded but on which work was not in progress included 195 miles of road in 26 contracts, and \$1,-034,000 in bridges and gravel piling. Included in the bridge items is a Missouri river toll bridge between Lewistown and Malta. The department reports 69 miles of

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## Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary August 1

**ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Phillipsburg—**(63 jobseekers; 27 men, 36 women; 17 men and 17 women over 45) Labor demand was light in July, increasing in volume during the closing days. Textile clerks and their employers reached agreement and work was resumed July 18. Smelter wage negotiations concluded about the same time without interruption of work.

**BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Laurel, Red Lodge, Roundup—**(543 jobseekers; 300 men, 243 women; 137 men and 61 women over 45) More new applicants than a year ago and the month ended with larger active file, though industrial placements were on a higher level. Construction, trade, and service furnished the most active demand. Spring surplus has been much reduced, but no shortages have developed yet. Building repair, due to hail damage, created an emergency demand. Road construction is below normal.

**BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—**(132 jobseekers; 70 men, 62 women; 14 men and 10 women over 45) Increase of seasonal jobs in July whittled the active file by 40 percent. Construction skills and labor sufficient. Three large building contracts nearing completion; school facilities at Manhattan, Willow Creek and Harrison are under way with local labor; a road job and food market under construction. Vegetable cannery opened in late July, staffed by housewives and vacation labor.

**BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—**(352 jobseekers; 176 men, 176 women; 57 men and 43 women over 45) Mine labor wage dispute settled without labor stoppage, hiring of new workers already at accelerated pace. Hiring for trade and service was static until the mine settlement was reached. Textile workers secured a new contract without a work stoppage. Construction of large division office and warehouse for a chain store has begun, also work started on junior high school.

**CUT BANK—**(89 jobseekers; 44 men, 45 women; 18 men and 8 women over 45) Construction was active in July, hiring resulted in shortage of skills and scarcity of construction labor. Farm hands scarce. All oil field labor is now at work. Continued demand in sight for construction men, for building a new school, an addition to a high school, and another to be contracted, and a number of private residences. New store just opening, with employment of 15.

**DILLON—**(68 jobseekers; 46 men, 22 women; 23 men and 12 women over 45) Labor supply and demand about balanced. Hay harvest is late, wild hay cutting has just begun. New building at the high school, a gas station, and several new homes are under way. Railroad is putting heavier rails

## LABOR MARKET REFLECTORS

	1955 July	1955 June	1954 July	July Avg. 1950-1954
Industrial Employment	161,600	160,600	161,300	157,700
New Job Applicants	3,432	3,717	2,985	2,637
Job Applicants, End of Month	4,628	5,274	4,283	3,381
Insured Unemployment—	Aug. 5 1955	July 8 1955	Aug. 6 1954	Avg. 1st Aug. Wk.
New and Renewal Claims	138	222	238	138
Unemployed Weeks Filed	1,072	1,468	1,252	995
Total Unemployment Claims	1,210	1,690	1,490	1,133

on the southern segment. Surfacing of a road stretch just begun.

**GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim—**(170 jobseekers; 120 men, 50 women; 37 men and 9 women over 45) Labor supply dwindled nearly a half in July, still much above year ago. Hiring was active for start of new airbase, apartment house, gas station, cafe, hotel addition, REA work at Opheim, and new Milk river bridge. Air base crews will not expand heavily until next spring. Trade and service industries are about at summer peak of employment.

**GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—**(81 jobseekers; 50 men, 31 women; 9 men and 14 women over 45) Construction employment is below 1954 level, with some increased demand in sight for August. Grain harvest beginning, transient supply about normal. Experienced farm hands scarce.

**GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—**(333 jobseekers; 170 men, 163 women; 55 men and 32 women over 45) July hiring was lighter than normal for the season, owing to adverse weather and to two labor disputes, both of which are now settled. Smelter work was not interrupted, but hiring was at a minimum. A surplus of labor was apparent in late June and early July, but is nearly absorbed at the end of the month. Experienced farm hands are scarce.

**HAMILTON, Stevensville—**(47 jobseekers; 27 men, 20 women; 7 men and 4 women over 45) July demand for building construction, sawmill, and agricultural labor depleted the supply to near balance. All skilled craftsmen are now employed. Cherry

canning in August will require recruitment of more women than now available. The berry harvest demand has been heavy through July.

**HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—**(26 jobseekers; 9 men, 17 women; 3 men and 1 woman over 45) Unemployment is at a minimum, with practically no reserve for new August hiring. Railroad track crews are full, needing occasional replacements. Construction of private homes employs building skills, no large projects under way. Farm labor supply is dependent upon transients.

**HELENA, Boulder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—**(300 jobseekers; 209 men, 91 women; 73 men and 22 women over 45) Labor situation is clouded by continuance of smelter wage dispute, idling 235 workers. Some have accepted work in other industries. Surplus of construction workers, but shortage of experienced farm hands. Skilled builders, mechanics, and clerical help also in shortage.

**KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—**(1,147 jobseekers; 502 men, 645 women; 83 men and 92 women over 45) Recruitment for cherry harvest and packing has inflated the labor supply with 600 housewives and youths not normally in the labor market. Cherry hiring will extend from August 1 to 20. Aluminum plant construction crew has been cut to less than 900 as portions are completed. Operation begun with crew of about 250, more will be added during the next three months. Experienced timber men growing scarce, shortages anticipated in August.

**LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—**(30 jobseekers; 13 men, 17 women; 6 men and 7 women over 45) Construction operations are at peak, with all skills and construction labor employed. Home construction, a super market, store enlargement, service station, new grain elevator at Denton, road surfacing job, all fully staffed. Bridge contract has been awarded, starting date not announced.

**LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—**(92 jobseekers; 60 men, 32 women; 35 men and 6 women over 45) Sawmills and logging crews are at full seasonal strength, road

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## Heavy July Hiring—

(Continued from Page One)

road jobs and \$639,000 of bridges completed during July.

### Trade and Service Hiring Heavy

Labor demand during the month of July was substantially stimulated by hiring in retail trade and service, largely in response to an increasing tourist traffic but also influenced by increased activity in construction and other seasonal employment.

## EIGHT YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1948	134.4	132.0	133.2	137.1	140.6	145.8	148.9	150.3	151.4	149.6	149.4	147.7	143.4
1949	137.1	135.5	137.7	144.0	147.3	151.0	150.0	150.1	149.8	148.2	146.1	143.3	145.0
1950	133.2	132.2	135.2	142.1	147.3	153.6	154.9	157.1	156.8	152.2	150.7	148.8	147.0
1951	141.9	139.4	140.3	145.9	149.4	154.1	153.5	154.6	154.3	152.4	151.7	150.6	149.0
1952	140.5	140.7	143.0	149.7	154.8	159.9	159.5	161.2	160.4	157.9	156.0	154.9	153.2
1953	145.8	144.5	146.3	149.7	153.1	158.0	158.5	160.6	160.3	159.6	157.6	156.4	154.2
1954	146.6	145.4	147.1	150.7	155.1	160.3	161.3	161.4	152.3	150.2	152.3	150.6	152.8
1955	143.6	143.2	144.2	148.3	154.1	160.6	161.6						



## Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary August 1

(Continued from Page Two)

surfacing and an overpass approach have helped reduce the labor supply to near balance. Road and building activity in the Yellowstone park are at their peak. Railroad employment still on a curtailed level in shops and roundhouse. Two extra gangs are on the track.

**MILES CITY, Baker, Broadus, Ekalaka, Colstrip, Forsyth, Terry**—(84 jobseekers; 53 men, 31 women; 18 men and 9 women over 45) Construction program in this area is light this summer, no major projects. Car repair facilities for one of the railroads are being enlarged and will require an additional 25 employees. Less hand labor is used in farm operations than a year ago, reduction in acreage of beans and onions a principal reason.

**MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior**—(304 jobseekers; 169 men, 135 women; 69 men and 31 women over 45) Shortage is developing in the farm labor supply. Transients are more numerous than a year ago, but many lack skills and experience. Work stoppage due to wage dispute involving most of the mechanics in the area ended with a new wage agreement in July. Industrial hiring responded by trending sharply upward.

**POLSON**—(498 jobseekers; 181 men, 317 women; 14 men and 17 women over 45) Building of a water line to serve 100 farms to the southward will begin in August. Farmer-users will have preference in employment. Logging and lumbering at peak employment. Present labor supply is magnified by inclusion of several hundred housewives and youth recruited for the cherry harvest and packing.

**SHELBY, Chester, Conrad, Tiber Dam**—(43 jobseekers; 25 men, 18 women; 11 men and 1 woman over 45) Building and other construction employment was curtailed in July because of frequent rains. Tiber Dam contractors have also been delayed by the same cause and by high water in the Marias river. Employment there is not yet at the full seasonal peak. New buildings scheduled to start in August will probably require outside recruitment.

**SIDNEY**—(56 jobseekers; 27 men, 29 women; 4 men and 3 women over 45) Construction employment is at its seasonal peak. Several of the larger projects are reaching completion and their crews will be used on a new bridge and school at Fairview and on several commercial projects in Sidney. A number of homes are under construction. Farm harvest beginning, labor supply dependent on flow of transients.

**THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs**—(128 jobseekers; 113 men, 15 women; 36 men and 2 women over 45) Many of the job applicants are migrants seeking jobs on the Noxon dam construction. Contracts not let in July, beginning time uncertain. Demand for labor in July was principally for replacements and crew expansion in lumber and logging, utility employment is at its seasonal peak.

**WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey**—(44 jobseekers; 23 men, 21 women; 7 men and 1 woman over 45) Increased hiring in construction and retail trade during July. One new elevator being built, three others enlarged, and grain bins being constructed, using about 60 workers. Pipeline from Poplar to Glendive started July 15, using 90 men. Completion expected in September.

## ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

INDUSTRY	EMPLOYMENT			Net Change	
	July 1955 (2)	June 1955 (3)	July 1954	June '55 to July '55	July '54 to July '55
<b>NONAGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES.....</b>	<b>161,600</b>	<b>160,600</b>	<b>161,300</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>300</b>
<b>Manufacturing .....</b>	<b>20,400</b>	<b>19,800</b>	<b>19,900</b>	<b>600</b>	<b>500</b>
Durable goods .....	12,400	12,100	11,900	300	500
Lumber and timber products.....	6,800	6,700	6,600	100	200
Primary metals.....	4,300	4,100	4,000	200	300
Other (4).....	1,300	1,300	1,300	0	0
Nondurable goods.....	8,000	7,700	8,000	300	0
Food and kindred products.....	3,900	3,800	4,000	100	— 100
Printing and publishing.....	1,700	1,600	1,600	100	100
Petroleum refining.....	1,400	1,300	1,300	100	100
Other (5).....	1,000	1,000	1,100	0	— 100
<b>Mining .....</b>	<b>10,900</b>	<b>11,100</b>	<b>11,300</b>	<b>— 200</b>	<b>— 400</b>
Metal mining .....	7,500	7,700	8,000	— 200	— 500
Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic .....	800	800	700	0	100
Petroleum-natural gas production .....	2,600	2,600	2,600	0	0
<b>Contract Construction .....</b>	<b>11,700</b>	<b>10,700</b>	<b>12,500</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>— 800</b>
Contractors, building construction .....	4,300	4,100	4,800	200	— 500
Contractors, other than building .....	4,100	3,300	4,300	800	— 200
Contractors, special trade .....	3,300	3,300	3,400	0	— 100
<b>Transportation and utilities .....</b>	<b>22,600</b>	<b>22,500</b>	<b>22,700</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>— 100</b>
Interstate railroads .....	13,500	13,500	13,500	0	0
Transportation except railroads .....	3,500	3,400	3,600	100	— 100
Utilities including communication .....	5,600	5,600	5,600	0	0
<b>Trade .....</b>	<b>40,900</b>	<b>40,500</b>	<b>40,200</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>700</b>
Wholesale trade .....	8,900	8,900	8,800	0	100
Retail trade .....	32,000	31,600	31,400	400	600
General merchandise and apparel.....	5,500	5,400	6,100	100	— 600
Food stores .....	4,700	4,800	4,400	— 100	300
Eating and drinking establishments.....	8,500	8,400	8,400	100	100
Automotive and filling stations .....	6,600	6,300	6,100	300	500
Retail trade not elsewhere classified.....	6,700	6,700	6,400	0	300
<b>Finance, insurance and real estate.....</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>5,600</b>	<b>5,200</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>400</b>
<b>Services and miscellaneous.....</b>	<b>20,700</b>	<b>20,700</b>	<b>20,600</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>100</b>
Hotels, rooming houses, camps, etc. ....	3,800	3,700	4,100	100	— 300
Personal services .....	2,300	2,300	2,300	0	0
Other (6) .....	14,600	14,700	14,200	— 100	400
<b>Government .....</b>	<b>28,800</b>	<b>29,700</b>	<b>28,900</b>	<b>— 900</b>	<b>— 100</b>
Federal .....	7,400	7,400	7,600	0	— 200
State and local .....	21,400	22,300	21,300	— 900	100
<b>Great Falls Area (Cascade County).....</b>	<b>19,200</b>	<b>18,800</b>	<b>18,600</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>600</b>
Manufacturing .....	3,000	2,900	2,900	100	100
Contract construction .....	1,900	1,700	1,800	200	100
Transportation and utilities .....	2,600	2,600	2,500	0	100
Trade, wholesale and retail .....	5,800	5,800	5,700	0	100
Services and miscellaneous (7) .....	3,600	3,500	3,500	100	100
Government .....	2,300	2,300	2,200	0	100

(1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.

(2) Preliminary estimates based on return from sample of 505 selected Montana establishments.

(3) Figures previously released have been revised on returns from 1,026 such establishments.

(4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

(5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

(6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, nonprofit membership organizations and business not otherwise classified.

(7) Same as (6) above, also includes finance, insurance, real estate and mining.

## COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET TRANSACTIONS IN JULY, 1955, AND JULY, 1954

Employment Service Office	New Job Applicants				Jobseekers in File				Job Placements								U. I. Claims Wk. 8-5	
	July 1955		July 1954		July 1955		July 1954		July 1955				July 1954				1955	1954
	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.		
Anaconda.....	28	4	26	5	63	12	79	7	17	34	51	11	48	55	103	25	45	65
Billings.....	611	215	219	38	543	155	426	101	365	695	1,060	275	302	1,012	1,314	239	247	213
Bozeman.....	98	16	130	37	132	31	170	30	227	294	521	152	227	385	612	182	10	19
Butte.....	235	65	357	31	352	62	544	64	246	30	276	120	67	4	71	37	190	321
Cut Bank.....	63	11	18	5	89	16	22	3	63	128	191	30	35	17	52	21	29	17
Dillon.....	97	41	143	79	68	16	54	9	22	156	178	92	10	144	154	75	20	18
Glasgow.....	128	59	151	35	170	30	96	31	182	153	335	123	156	155	311	95	23	14
Glendive.....	62	23	47	14	81	25	22	3	96	128	224	59	129	177	306	92	8	17
Great Falls.....	359	107	327	98	333	86	517	108	379	416	795	348	352	456	808	378	178	192
Hamilton.....	25	3	50	5	47	6	75	5	43	568	611	21	41	400	441	34	12	18
Havre.....	108	45	120	36	26	3	34	3	246	148	394	188	192	169	361	194	6	13
Helena.....	147	45	137	59	300	105	173	41	141	140	281	119	111	132	243	92	68	69
Kalispell.....	570	87	477	63	1,147	115	1,017	86	161	24	185	75	197	31	228	75	102	79
Lewistown.....	44	8	58	8	30	5	39	5	51	163	214	78	54	187	241	106	21	25
Livingston.....	46	13	88	27	92	20	83	23	46	93	139	56	105	131	236	107	33	29
Miles City.....	79	25	72	18	84	26	125	33	87	291	378	73	173	545	718	235	25	43
Missoula.....	192	50	148	30	304	85	362	97	274	264	538	218	271	186	457	223	86	240
Polson.....	277	11	220	6	498	26	342	20	39	49	88	28	51	105	156	30	39	59
Shelby.....	65	38	63	12	43	7	32	6	105	76	181	78	194	100	294	88	14	10
Sidney.....	40	10	65	14	56	9	52	10	51	503	554	31	80	508	588	35	15	14
Thomp. Fls.**	80	20	0	0	128	38	0	0	30	3	33	11	0	0	0	0	37	0
Wolf Point.....	78	26	69	20	42	8	19	5	72	79	151	55	49	92	141	33	2	15
TOTALS.....	3,432	922	2,985	640	4,628	886	4,283	690	2,943	4,435	7,378	2,241	2,844	4,991	7,835	2,396	1,210	1,490

\* Includes 14 claims of Federal Employees UC program instituted January 1, 1955. \*\* Office re-opened June 1.

## AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)  
(Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

INDUSTRY	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	July (1) 1955	June (2) 1955	July 1954	July (1) 1955	June (2) 1955	July 1954	July (1) 1955	June (2) 1955	July 1954
All Manufacturing .....	\$84.41	\$82.95	\$77.57	40.8	40.2	38.7	2.07	2.07	2.01
Durable goods .....	84.70	84.33	76.75	40.8	40.7	38.5	2.08	2.07	1.99
Primary metals .....	77.53	77.53	72.35	39.7	39.7	38.0	1.95	1.95	1.90
Nondurable goods .....	83.84	80.46	78.88	40.7	39.2	39.0	2.06	2.05	1.70
Food and kindred products .....	73.23	70.77	68.80	42.2	40.9	40.5	1.74	1.73	2.02
All Mining .....	95.03	94.19	81.68	38.6	39.1	37.6	2.47	2.41	2.17
Metal mining .....	96.88	97.07	78.14	39.4	39.5	37.0	2.46	2.46	2.11
Transportation and Utilities (except railrds.)	78.74	77.88	78.01						
Transportation (except railroads).....	88.43	87.00	95.18						
Utilities and communication .....	74.14	73.61	70.01	41.1	41.0	40.6	1.80	1.79	1.73

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns.

## UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION

## COMMISSION OF MONTANA

MITCHELL BUILDING

P. O. Box 1728

HELENA, MONTANA

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

President  
Montana School of Mines  
Butte, Montana

EMPLOYMENT SECURITY MAIL  
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Act of Congress



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